

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods, software and systems for handling parity errors in flow control channels are presented. A network processor is provided having a flow control message First In First Out (FIFO) buffer and wherein the FIFO buffer includes a  
5 parity field. The network processor is included as either or both of an Ingress network processor and an Egress network processor and is used within a CSIX system or an NPSI NPE system.